

19 and 20. Rs. 13 by transfer from "11. Forests and Tramway—B. 1. Salary of the Conservator" to "B. 11. Cleaning Charges" and Rs. 133 by transfer "11. Forests and Tramway—B. 1. Salary of the Conservator—to B. 12. Rents, etc."

Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 13 by transfer from "11 Forests and Tramway—B. 1. Salary of the Conservator" to "B. 11. Cleaning Charges." I also rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 133 by transfer from "11. Forests and Tramway—B. 1. Salary of the Conservator" to "B. 12. Rents, etc."

Demands put and carried

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1117

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*):

Hon'ble Mr. President,
and Members of the Legislative Council,

I have great pleasure to place before you for your consideration the budget estimates for the coming year.

The abnormal conditions to which the present times are subjected all over India have affected us also to a large extent. The War which started nearly two years ago has begun to get its influence felt more and more severely on the living conditions and general finances of the whole of India and along with that on our State as well. Besides its influence being felt in the general tendency for prices to rise, in the difficulty to obtain articles of foreign manufacture that have to be imported into the country to meet its daily needs, I mean especially medical appliances, building materials, machinery and things of the kind, its influence is all the stronger in a maritime State like ours. Compared to the previous years there is a temporary set back in the trade and consequent Customs revenue of the State. Also like the other Major Ports in India we have also had to think and plan for A. R. P. preparations and other allied arrangements.

Added to the difficulties of the temporary fall in the one major elastic source of revenue of the State—Customs—and also in the Income-tax of the State, greater and more acute distress was caused by the singularly ferocious and devastating cyclone of the few weeks back. This has affected severely both our revenue and expenditure.

The collection of land revenue in the current year, though a major portion of it had already been collected before the cyclone, stands reduced by Rs. 13,500. It would also be not a surprise if the actual collections under Abkari and Ganja do not come up to the expectations of the revised estimate. Appreciable reduction in the secondary and primary school fees is also expected; the House is aware Government have empowered the Director of Public Instruction to grant fee concession to deserving students. Then, collections in the Devaswam Department and the several estates which are under the management of the State would also considerably fall thus causing the Treasury balances to go down, and the result would be larger drawals on the cash reserves of the State to meet our day to day cash requirements. To meet the immediate distress following the cyclone a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs was forthwith sanctioned by the Government and more than three-fourths of that amount has already been drawn and disbursed among the needy and poor. Tentatively Rs. 2 lakhs has also been provided in the current year's budget to be utilised for giving agricultural and house construction loans to those affected by the cyclone. This provision is only tentative and pending final orders on the proposals before the Government. The effects of the War on the one hand which are beginning to be felt more and more severely both on the revenue and expenditure side of our budget and the acute conditions brought about by the cyclone havoc have greatly influenced the preparation of the current year's revised and the next year's budget estimates.

Before going further into the details of the estimates for the next year I would draw your attention to the position of our finances as it stood at the end of the last year and also as it is expected to stand at the end of the current year.

THE ACTUALS OF THE YEAR 1115

We anticipated this time last year that the year 1115 would close with a surplus of Rs. 7·87 lakhs. Fortunately the actuals exceeded our expectations and the surplus rose to Rs. 10·78 lakhs. On the revenue side there has not been very great difference between the revised estimate of last year amounting to Rs. 111·9 lakhs and the actuals of Rs. 112·7 lakhs; the difference has been completely on the expenditure side. The total expenditure stood at Rs. 101·9 lakhs as against the anticipated revised estimate of Rs. 104 lakhs. The chief reasons for the variation between the budget estimates and actuals of last year have been a reduction of Rs. 77,000 in Public Works on account of the reservoir for the Chittur irrigation system, investigations on which are only still proceeding, Rs. 49,000 under Education due to savings under establishment charges, and Rs. 50,000 under